

HOUSE BILL 2565

By Casada

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-110, relative to voluntary school fee disclosure.

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 12 of the Constitution of Tennessee provides that "[t]he General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools"; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has found in Opinion No. 10-96 that the state board's proposed rule and its predecessor, both of which stated that "a public school may request, but not require school fees for field trips, any portion of which fall within the school day" complied with § 49-2-110(c), which states that "[t]he school shall not require any student to pay a fee to the school for any purpose, except as authorized by the board of education, and no fees or tuitions shall be required of any student as a condition to attending the public school or using its equipment while receiving educational training."; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-110(c), is amended by adding at the end of the subsection the following language:

Local boards of education shall notify parents and guardians at the commencement of a school year that school fees, including fees for books, workbooks and field trips, are voluntary. All communications relating to the solicitation and collection of school fees shall contain the following statement, printed verbatim in bold-faced, 12-point font:

Tennessee law provides that no student shall be required to pay a fee to the school for any purpose, except as authorized by the board of education, and **NO FEES OR TUITIONS SHALL BE REQUIRED** of any student as a condition to

attending the public school or using its equipment while receiving educational training. Any such school fees shall be entirely voluntary.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.